

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently amended): An isolated polynucleotide comprising:

- a) nucleotides 1202 through 1543 of Figure 2;
- b) nucleotide 1252 through 1543 of Figure 2;
- c) nucleotides encoding amino acids 283 through 396 of Figure 2; or
- d) nucleotides encoding amino acids 299 through 396 of Figure 2[[:]]
- e) ~~naturally occurring allelic variants of a) through d).~~

25. (Previously presented): An isolated polynucleotide comprising nucleotides 1202 through 1543 of Figure 2.

26. (Previously presented): An isolated polynucleotide comprising nucleotides 1252 through 1543 of Figure 2.

Claims 27-28 (Cancelled)

29. (Previously presented): An isolated polynucleotide comprising nucleotides encoding amino acids 283 through 396 of Figure 2.

30. (Previously presented): An isolated polynucleotide comprising nucleotides encoding amino acids 299 through 396 of Figure 2.

31-32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently amended): An isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide that hybridizes ~~under stringent conditions~~ to a polynucleotide complementary to a polynucleotide comprising nucleotides 1252 to 1543 of Figure 2

under the following conditions: incubation at 65°C in standard hybridization buffer (6X SSC, 5X Denhardt's solution, 0.01 M EDTA, 0.5% SDS) and washing at 65°C in 0.2X SSC, 0.1% SDS of claim 24, wherein said isolated polynucleotide encodes a protein characterized by the ability to induce the formation of cartilage and/or bone tissue.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously presented): A vector comprising a polynucleotide of claim 24 in operative association with an expression control sequence therefore.

36. (Previously presented): A vector comprising a polynucleotide of claim 33 in operative association with an expression control sequence therefore.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously presented): A host cell transformed with a vector of claim 35.

39. (Previously presented): A host cell transformed with a vector of claim 36.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Previously presented): An isolated polynucleotide comprising ~~selected from the group consisting of ATCC deposit deposits 40345 and 40342.~~

42. (Currently amended): A method for producing a bone morphogenetic protein-2 protein, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) culturing a host cell transformed with a polynucleotide of claim 33,
and
- b) recovering said bone morphogenetic protein -2 protein.

43-49. (Cancelled)